



2026



MORTIMER NURSERY

INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR PARENTS



Mortimer Ethos

We believe that ...

Kind people are the best kind of people

Doing your best is more important than being the best

Manners make magic moments

We are all different and our differences make us unique

Welcome to Mortimer Nursery



At Mortimer we know that nursery experiences can create strong and lasting foundations on which to build in later life; therefore, it is vital that these first experiences are of the highest quality. By working in partnership with you, we aim to provide a stimulating and challenging environment in which both children and adults can explore, have fun, play, talk and learn together.

Your Child Starting Mortimer Nursery

The school aims to ease the transition into nursery life by providing an induction programme for parents and children: this begins in the summer term with a parent key information meeting. This allows you to meet staff, find out about the importance of play and look at the nursery environment. You and your child will also be invited to a stay and play session. This visit to nursery will allow your child to spend a period of time exploring the nursery environment before they begin their sessions. The induction process is designed to eliminate any anxieties, queries or concerns you may have about this next stage in your child's life and also to ensure that your child feels confident and excited about starting nursery.

You will be given a date and time by letter for the stay and play session. Please note that children will have different starting dates and times. Additionally, it is important to be aware that each child can react differently in the way that they settle into nursery life; therefore, it may be necessary to review the amount of time a child stays each day in their allocated session. All children do settle happily, but some children can take a little longer than others.



Excellence for All

Uniform



Because we understand that children have the most fun when they are being messy, we feel that your child will benefit from being dressed in clothes that they can easily manage. At Mortimer we know that jogging bottoms, a pull on skirt, leggings - even shorts in warmer weather - are the easiest for quick toilet visits and independent dressing. Shoes with a Velcro fastening are easier for children to manage too. We ask that children wear navy jogging bottoms, skirts, dresses, leggings with a white polo t-shirt and a red cardigan or jumper. We do provide aprons and waterproof clothing but small children have an amazing talent for keeping these clean and creating works of art on their clothes!

We play both indoors and outdoors all day long in all weather, so we ask you to provide a pair of wellies to stay at nursery. Our children like to take items of clothing off and leave them all over the nursery so we ask that every item is labelled including shoes, hats and gloves.

Nursery Hours

Our statutory nursery provision is divided into 2 x 3 hour sessions; mornings and afternoons.

AM Session 8:40-11:40

PM Session 12:40-3:40

Our 30-hour session is 8:40-2:40, including lunch.

At the end of each session, nursery doors are open from 11:30 and 3:30.



30 Hour Provision



At Mortimer, we offer 30 hours of nursery entitlement. This is offered Monday to Friday 8:40am until 2:40pm. Children stay at school for their lunch. Children will receive a hot meal, dessert and drink in the school hall with their friends and members of the nursery team. Lunch costs £2.90 per day. A packed lunch can be brought if required.

Extra Time

Parents can choose to keep their child in nursery until 3:40 each day for a charge of £2.00 per day.

Both are payable via Parent Pay.

Wrap Around Care

We understand that a lot of our parents are working parents and that drop-offs and collections around the school day can be tricky.

At Mortimer, we have our own Wrap Around service to support our families.

Bright Owls operates in our school building, offering pre and post-school care.

Our **Early Owls Session** accepts drop offs from 7:45am.

Our **Night Owls Session** runs until 5:45pm for pick up (Friday closes at 5pm).

Sessions are available to book via Parent Pay



Excellence for All

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum



Nursery and reception education is referred to as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is a basis for your child's future learning and development. It emphasises various key factors: every child is unique; children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships; the environment in which children learn is enabling and staff respond to individual interests and needs as well as work in close partnership with parents and carers. Through playing and exploring, active learning and creating as well as thinking critically, children can develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. Our aim is to foster and encourage learning every day.

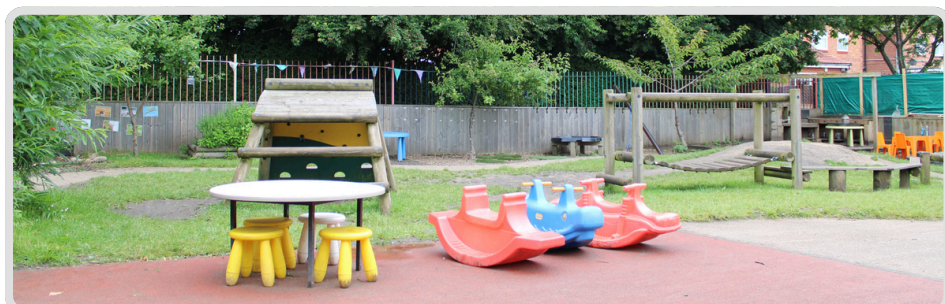
Our indoor and outdoor classrooms, in addition to the open-ended collaborative play and exploration we promote, are key features of the early years process.

Characteristics of Learning

Playing and Exploring - children investigate and experience things - they 'have a go'

Active Learning - children concentrate on trying if they encounter difficulties; they enjoy personal achievements.

Creative and Critical Thinking - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.



Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

The development of spoken language underpins all areas of learning. As children develop their speaking and listening skills, they're forming the foundations for language and cognitive development. Children will learn lots of new vocabulary through quality interactions with our staff and by listening to and engaging actively in the stories read to them.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives. Staff will support children to make friends, understand and talk about their own feelings as well as those of others, learn about 'right' and 'wrong', develop independence and ultimately feel good about themselves. Children's early PSED has a huge impact on their later well-being, learning, achievement and economic success too.

Physical Development

Leading an active life is vital in children's all-round development and this area focuses on developing large and small movements in a variety of ways and having good control and coordination when handling different tools and equipment. It also covers health and self-care; looking at ways to keep ourselves healthy and safe.



Specific Areas

Literacy - children develop a love for hearing and reading stories and rhymes. Additionally, children are given lots of opportunities to develop mark-making and emergent writing skills.

Mathematics - developing a strong grounding in number as well as spacial reasoning skills.

Understanding the World - involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology, and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design - children are given many opportunities to explore music, dance and song. The children also have access to a variety of media and materials to develop creativity and imaginative play.



At Mortimer our aim is to provide a curriculum that is not only enriching but broad and balanced in order to prepare children for their future schooling and beyond. Staff plan a range of play experiences in response to the children's interests: this facilitates their progress in each of these areas of learning.

Play is the highest form of research

Albert Einstein

Play underpins the EYFS. It also underpins learning and all aspects of children's development. Through play, children develop language skills, their emotions and creativity as well as their social and intellectual skills. For most children, their play is natural and spontaneous although some children may need extra help from adults. Play takes place both indoors and outdoors and it is in these different environments that children explore and discover their immediate world. It is here they practice new ideas and skills, take risks, show imagination and solve problems on their own or with others.



Key Person

In Mortimer Nursery your child is assigned a key person who will be responsible for your child throughout their time in nursery.

Assessment

In the EYFS, assessment is carried out daily with staff playing alongside the children and making regular observations of what children do and say.

Photographs, interactions and annotated pieces of work to show a child's individual attainment and progress is shared with parents and carers on Tapestry. These observations will also inform future plans for learning. We welcome home contributions from parents / carers too.



Learning Journals

Each child's Tapestry portfolio develops throughout their time in nursery and reception so that it becomes a lovely document which demonstrates how your child has grown and progressed whilst in our care. We encourage parents to be involved by sharing your observations, stories and photographs from outside of school. At the end of reception, you will be invited to download your child's personal journey.

Preparing your child for Nursery

In order to prepare your child for nursery there are some really simple things you can do:

- Help your child become more independent by going to the toilet themselves
- Show them how to wash and dry their hands
- Encourage independence by teaching your child how to put on shoes, coats and jumpers themselves
- Avoid clothes and shoes with tricky fastenings

Attendance

We place a strong emphasis on good attendance even though nursery is non-statutory. This is because we believe it fosters good habits and routines and better prepares them for school. However, parents are the best judge of how their children are feeling and are asked not to send their child to school when they are evidently unwell.



What do I do if my child is ill?

We would appreciate it if we could be informed of any illness or reason for non-attendance before 8:40am on the first day of absence.

If your child needs medicine at school, only doctor-prescribed medicine will be administered by school. Parents will need to fill out a form for this. If your child has sickness/diarrhoea we ask that children don't return to nursery until they have been clear for 48 hours (following NHS guidelines)



Share a story

Sharing stories is an important part of the nursery day and our children are read to at least once a day. The stories we read with the children will be shared on Tapestry each week.

An important part of early literacy skills is sharing and becoming familiar with stories and a wide variety of books.

Each week the Bedtime Story Back Pack goes home with a child from each group. Inside you will find a book to read, a teddy to snuggle up with and a treat to enjoy. You can share any photographs on Tapestry.

Please...

- Provide a pair of named wellies to be kept at school
- Put your child's name in ALL items of clothing
- Dress your child in practical clothing
- Choose shoes that have a Velcro fastening
- Refrain from bringing toys into the nursery
- Return toys or equipment belonging to the nursery if your child brings them home

Birthdays

During your child's time in nursery, they will have their fourth birthday. We like to make this a special time for each of them.

On the day we will sing Happy Birthday to your child and they will blow out the candles on our pretend cake!



Your details

Please keep your records up to date by informing us of any changes to :

Addresses

Phone numbers

Email address

Emergency contacts

Medical information



School Information

Head Teacher

Mr P J Bennett

Mortimer Primary School

Mortimer Road

South Shields

NE34 0RW

Tel: 0191 455 4504

Email: office@mortimerprimary.co.uk

